



Employment Opportunity

Fish and Wildlife Biologist 3

Oil Spill Specialist

Salary: \$3450 - \$4421 monthly Range: 53

Bulletin # 598-2006

Opens: November 16, 2006

Closes: December 22, 2006

Location: Habitat Program, Major Projects Division
Oil Spill Team in Olympia

Job Summary: This position serves as a member of the WDFW oil spill team. The team's mission is to be a trustee for fish and wildlife species in all aspects of preparing for and responding to oil spills in the State of Washington. The team provides expert ecological information regarding the impact of petroleum spills on fish and wildlife species and their marine and freshwater environments. The team is organized into three functional areas: (1) Natural Resource Protection, (2) Wildlife Rescue, and (3) Damage Assessment and Restoration.

This position will support all three functional areas. Most of the work involves planning, training and other preparations for spill response, as well as, post-spill restoration projects and activities. Actual spill events make up only a small portion of the overall workload. During a spill event the position will support the management of the spill response, usually at the incident command post, or support Natural Resource Damage Assessment activities. The position does not engage in the physical clean up of the oil spill. Training will be provided on the unique attributes of the position (e.g. Incident Command System).

Duties:

- Applies fish and wildlife expertise to a wide variety of issues relating to petroleum spills in marine and freshwater environments; compiles and analyzes resource information for pre-spill response preparations and post-spill damage assessments.
- Supports Natural Resources Protection activities by preparing or updating documents and data describing seasonal and geographic distribution and abundance of fish and wildlife resources at risk during oil spills.
- Supports Resource Damage Assessment activities, such as ephemeral data plans, damage assessment, and restoration projects by collecting field data, designing assessment techniques, identifying restoration opportunities.
- Supports Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation activities by assisting in the development of a statewide program to rescue, rehabilitate and release wildlife impacted by oil spills.
- Works to reduce the harm to fish and wildlife through improvements in Washington's plans and preparations for spill response. Engages with state and federal agencies and private stakeholders to accomplish these goals.
- Responsible for emergency pager duty on a rotational basis with other team members.
- Provides fish and wildlife expertise and technical support to the ICS primarily within the Environmental Unit or the Wildlife Branch; may provide technical support for Natural Resource Damage Assessment activities.
- Maintains personal training and preparedness for responding to spill events and maintains team operational readiness.

Key Competencies:

- Working knowledge of the nearshore marine environment and freshwater ecosystems is essential in oil spill response. Must be able to evaluate the consequences to fish and wildlife in these ecosystems from both the spilled oil and the response (cleanup) activities. Sound biological expertise is fundamental to recommending actions that are in the best interests of the animals and their habitats. In-depth knowledge of some aspect(s) of these ecosystems is highly desirable (e.g. intertidal invertebrates, freshwater salmonids, planktonic species, nearshore fish, birds, or marine mammals).
- Verbally communicating (including public speaking) to respond to questions, provide information, explain processes and procedures and to present ideas or complex information geared to the needs of the audience.
- Writing. Preparing or reviewing memos, strategic and tactical planning documents, damage assessment reports, administrative rules, tactical reports, and miscellaneous other documents related to oil spill response and damage assessment activities.

- Collecting, organizing, and analyzing data relevant to the ecology of marine and freshwater ecosystems. Field collections involve recovering fish and wildlife, substrate and water samples for evidence. Site visits are necessary for planning response strategies for specific areas.
- Proficiency in use of computers to compile and retrieve ecological data useful to the management of an oil spill response, including use of ordinary computer applications (e.g. word processing, spreadsheet and internet applications) and capable of learning more specialized software such as ArcGIS.

Required Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree in fisheries, wildlife management, natural resource science, or environmental science AND three years of professional experience in fish management or fish research, wildlife management or wildlife research, or habitat management or habitat research. OR Two years as a Fish & Wildlife Biologist 2.

A Master's degree in the applicable science will substitute for one year of the required experience. A Ph.D. in the applicable science will substitute for two years of the required experience.

AND Demonstrated experience or training that provides a working knowledge of:

- Marine nearshore and freshwater biological resources and habitats
- Marine nearshore and freshwater physical processes

Preferred Qualifications:

Experience dealing with the effects of oil in marine and freshwater ecosystems. Experience operating within a dynamic emergency environment, including making decisions that direct the activities of others. Experience with the process, organization, language and forms of the incident command system for oil spill management.

Working Conditions:

The job requires the ability to work in field locations, including working in boats, planes and helicopters and operating boats up to 26 ft in length. The work also requires timely decision-making in a dynamic and sometimes stressful environment. Overnight travel is required as is working beyond the normal hours as needed to meet the emergency conditions of an oil spill response. Typically overnight travel is only occasional, but may involve multiple consecutive days during an emergency spill event.

The position is responsible for emergency pager duty on a rotational basis with other team members. Pager duty involves being on call 24 hours/day to handle spill notifications; restrictions on travel and other personal activities apply while on pager duty. Employee must live in Lacey/Olympia/Tumwater area. Standby pay is provided for pager duty.

Note:

Membership in the Washington Association of Fish and Wildlife Professionals bargaining unit is a condition of employment.
This recruitment will be used to fill this position only.
Copies of college transcripts may be required upon a scheduled interview.
Due to the emergency response requirement of this position the employee must live within a 30 minute commute to the NRB.

To Apply:

Follow the examination procedure on the reverse of this page. Submit your answers, state application and resume by email or by mail to:

Cheryl Gardner (Email: gardnclg@dfw.wa.gov)
Human Resource Office
Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

All items must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 22, 2006.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife actively supports diversity in the workplace. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, disabled veterans, and Vietnam-era veterans are all encouraged to apply. Disabled persons needing application/testing/interview assistance may call (360) 902-2276 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (360) 902-2207.

Examination Procedure: The examination is an evaluation of your experience and training. Type or write your answers to these questions, numbering your answers to the corresponding question number. **Please answer the questions as thoroughly as you can. Attach this examination to your state application. Web site for state application is: <http://www.dop.wa.gov/Resources/Forms/>.** Additional information will not be accepted after the closing date of this announcement.

1. Describe how you meet the requirements for a degree and professional biological experience. Specify degrees achieved, schools attended, and major subject areas. For experience, specify your job titles, employers, duties performed as a professional biologist, and length of employment.
2. Tell us how you meet any of the preferred qualifications, such as:
 - Experience dealing with the effects of oil in marine and freshwater ecosystems.
 - Experience operating within a dynamic emergency environment, including making decisions that direct the activities of others.
 - Experience with the process, organization, language and forms of the incident command system for oil spill management.
3. Describe any training or experience that provides you with a working knowledge of Marine nearshore and freshwater biological resources, habitats, and physical processes. Be specific about courses or other formal training and any work experience that demonstrates how you have acquired and used this knowledge.